

~~SECRET NOFORN~~  
EYES ONLY

Director  
Intelligence Community Staff  
Washington, D.C. 20505

12 February 1986

Mr. Donald R. Fortier  
Deputy Assistant to the President for  
National Security Affairs  
The White House  
Washington, D. C. 20500

Dear Don:

Thank you very much for your note. I have asked my secretary to schedule an office call on you when it is convenient.

Don, I wanted to express to you my private and personal opinion that we should proceed slowly and deliberately in examining all options relating to our space vehicle launches as the result of the loss of the shuttle. The alternatives associated with the recovery program are too important to be done in haste or to respond to any pressures that "we should move out promptly while we have Congressional support." The most important issue is to develop the most cost effective program that gives us the most flexibility and options for continuing with our space related missions. I know that both the DCI and John McMahon share these views.

Looking forward to seeing you soon.

Sincerely,



E. A. Burkhalter, Jr.  
Vice Admiral, USA

EYES ONLY  
SECRET NOFORN

CC: DDC /  
02 2/13  
Lg